

09/756,348

MS150913.01 / MSFTP153US

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 18-22 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 11 and 17 have been cancelled. A clean version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-5.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interviews of December 14, 15 and 16, 2004, where it was agreed that a modified version of independent claims 1, 10 and 16 would overcome the cited prior art. In particular, the Examiner agreed that incorporating the "contiguous" limitation of dependent claims 2, 11 and 17 would overcome the prior art cited in the subject Office Action as well as the newly cited prior art, Jeong (U.S. 6,831,946) that was presented during the interview of December 15, 2004. Accordingly, the independent claims have been amended herein to further emphasize this novel aspect of the subject invention.

Since the amended limitations merely emphasize subject matter as originally claimed, this limitation should already have been considered during an initial search in connection with the subject application. Pursuant to MPEP §714.13, applicants' representative submits that the amendment to these claims "only requires a cursory review by the Examiner" and thus, entry and consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 10-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-8 and 10-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chui *et al* (U.S. 6,343,155). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended to recite the "contiguous" limitation of dependent claims 2, 11 and 17 that the Examiner indicated as being allowable during the aforementioned interview of December 16, 2004.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of independent claims 1, 10, 16 and 22 (and claims 3-8, 12-15 and 18-21 which depend there from) is respectfully requested.

09/756,348

MS150913.01 / MSFTP153US

II. Rejection of Claim 9 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chui *et al.* in view of Well Known Prior Art. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claim 9 depends from independent claim 1. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a limitation of dependent claim 2 that the Examiner indicates as being allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP



Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731